

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 250910Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5022

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13096

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG ID

SUBJECT: ENERGY: GOI-GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REFS: A. SAIGON 13497, B. JAKARTA 12837, CXB

SAIGON 12380

D. STATE 107251

1. AS OUR TELEGRAMS HAVE INDICATED, WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THROUGH ALL AVAILABLE LOCAL CHANNELS GOI-GVN DISCUSSIONS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE. WHILE FULLY AGREEING WITH SAIGON ON SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, I AM BEGINNING WONDER WHETHER THERE IS ANY MORE WE CAN DO. I HAVE FEELING WE ARE WITNESSING ORIENTAL DANCE WHICH NEITHER PARTICIPANT CURRENTLY WISHES TO BRING TO AN END.

2. REPORTING FROM SAIGON STATES VIETNAMESE PREPARED RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO AND EXPECT AN INVITATION FOR TALKS IN JAKARTA FROM INDONESIAN SIDE. WE DO NOT DOUBT THIS MAY BE CLEAR GVN UNDERSTANDING. INDONESIANS APPEAR TO FEEL INVITATION OUTSTANDING SINCE LAST MARCH AND GVN NEEDS ONLY TO RESPOND WITH LETTTER THROUGH GOI SAIGON OFFICE INDICATING THEIR READINESS TO COME FOR TECHNICAL TALKS.

3. WE CANNOT AVOID IMPRESSION HERE IN JAKARTA, HOWEVER,  
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THAT ACTUAL SITUATION MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CLEARCUT.

WHATEVER MAY BE STATED POSITIONS IN SAIGON AND JAKARTA, BOTH INDONESIANS AND GVN TRADE OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE NANG GIVE IMPRESSION GVN SEEKING SOME TYPE OF DIPLOMATIC COVER FOR TALKS. IF NANG SPEAKS TO INDONESIANS AS HE DOES TO US, HE IS GIVING THEM VERY LITTLE HOPE THAT GVN IS PREPARED COMPROMISE ON ISSUE.

4. WE ARE EQUALLY READY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT INDONESIANS MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CANDID BOTH WITH US AND WITH GVN. THEY MAY WELL FEEL THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE OVER ALL POTENTIAL OPERATORS IN AREA TO FORESTALL ANY UNAUTHORIZED (BY INDONESIA) DRILLING. THEY MAY ALSO FEEL THAT IF ARCHIPELAGO THEORY ACCEPTED BY NEXT LOS CONFERENCE, THEY WILL HAVE STRONG BASIS FOR ASSERTING MAXIMUM CLAIM. IN SUM, THEY MAY NOT FEEL THERE IS ANY URGENT NEED TO PUSH FOR TALKS.

5. WE COULD CONCEIVABLY SEEK TO RAISE ISSUE AT HIGHEST LEVEL HERE BUT I FEAR SUCH A STEP MIGHT WELL INVOLVE US MORE DIRECTLY IN ISSUE THAN DEPARTMENT DESIRES (STATE 107251). UNLESS DEPARTMENT OR SAIGON HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION, WATCH FOR FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES, BUT STAND OFF FROM FURTHER PRESSURE IN SITUATION IN WHICH REAL POSITION AND OBJECTIVES OF TWO SIDES CURRENTLY SEEM LESS THAN CLEAR.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISPUTES  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, ID, VS  
**To:** STATE SAIGON  
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